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JULY 2021 | VOLUME 12 | ISSUE 7

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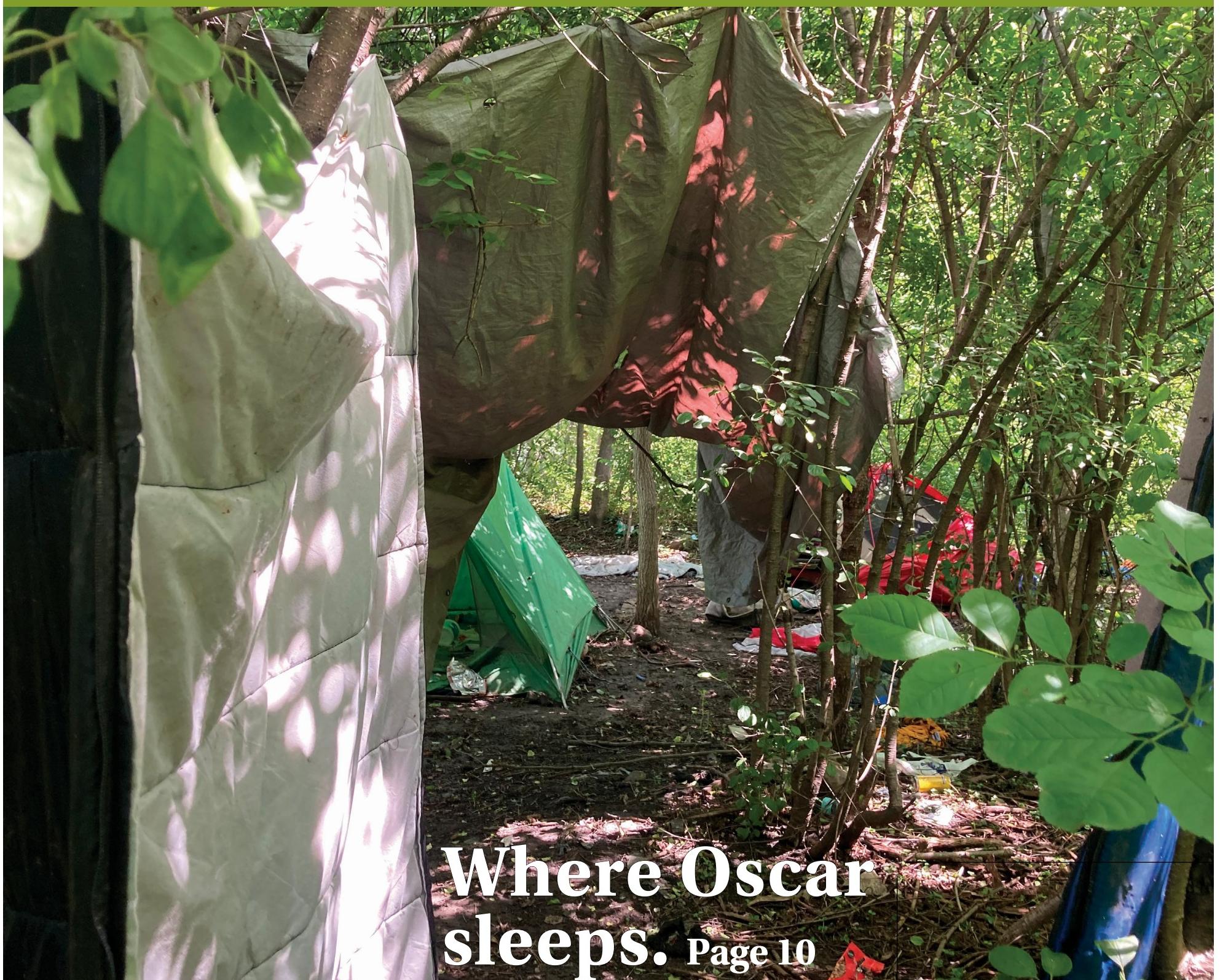
Happy 4th of July! What do we like most about America? **Page 8**

MEET YOUR VENDOR:  
**JAMES MANNING,**  
**PAGE 3**



# GROUND COVER

NEWS AND SOLUTIONS FROM THE GROUND UP | WASHTENAW COUNTY, MICH.



# The Staples Center transitions services — at what cost?

For years, the Staples Family Center has been a homeless shelter for families and individuals in Washtenaw County. Due to a running deficit and lack of 24/7 staffing, the Staples Center will no longer be open for its long-time use as a family housing center.

In response to the closure, the Salvation Army will be beefing up its diversion efforts and the gap in beds will be met by funding for hotel services. The Salvation Army's Federal Emergency Management Agency funds will go to purchasing hotel rooms for individuals and families in need of shelter. In addition, with the COVID Emergency



LINDSAY CALKA  
Publisher

Rental Assistance funds, they will be spending millions of dollars to keep families housed with through eviction prevention.

Marla Conklin, director of social

services at the Washtenaw County Salvation Army, responded to my apprehension at the loss of 36 beds in our shelter system. She emphasized that, "the Staples Center will not be closing." The facility is still owned by the Salvation Army and they are currently working with the VA to transition the site into another shelter for veterans, expanding the capacity of the current 11-bed Haven of Hope House for veterans in Ann Arbor.

During the pandemic many cities across the United States turned to hotel and motel buildings to allow for unsheltered individuals and families to safely "shelter-in-place." Now we

are seeing a reliance on these same buildings to house our community even as pandemic restrictions ease.

I am skeptical that isolated rooms within a normally functioning hotel can offer the same quality service or accessible resources that an agency like the Staples Family Center aims to provide. This pivot in target population may overburden an already underserved population — families experiencing homelessness will soon have even fewer options when in crisis.

# Hire Will Shakespeare already



BEN GIRODIAS  
Groundcover contributor

the living room, pressed against one another on sagging couches. The warmth of the room sharply contrasted with the cold Michigan winter. The room glowed with a sense of community.

Will was introduced, and he got up and gave his prepared lecture. His rich voice boomed through the room, weaving a rich narrative of the civil rights movement, bringing it to life. He spoke on successes and failures. He emphasized the great steps forward and the work that still needed to be done. But most of all, he presented a vision for a better world and inspired us to get there.

Since then, I have looked forward to his splash page articles in each issue where he provides desperately needed counter-narratives. He pulls our attention to urgent societal issues, particularly those affecting communities of color, while providing the historical background necessary to understand how these inequities and problems developed. We need this knowledge to find real, lasting solutions.

For example, his article in the last issue rejects the controversial Moynihan report; instead Will highlights how "Black women are not the problem, but the solution." He goes on further to raise the work of Dr. Andre Perry, who rejected the mythology of the broken Black home in favor of acknowledging the harsh economic realities for communities of color, which has been a direct result of white terrorism and racist housing policies. Economic inequities and racism intertwine in such insidious ways that one cannot separate the sociological consequences from racist economic causes. To look at just behavior choices without the historical context is at best misleading and at worse directly harmful by misallocating needed resources.

In his Januay articles, Will explores the connection between poverty and health, focusing on hunger. Our society had begun to make great strides from the activism of civil rights leaders like

see HIRE page 10 ➔

## GROUNDCOVER

### Mission

Creating opportunity and a voice for low-income people while taking action to end homelessness and poverty.

**Lindsay Calka** — publisher

**Michael Corrigan** — resource specialist

**Catherine Nouhan** — editor

### This month's contributors

Elizabeth Bauman  
Jim Clark  
Anna Gersh  
Ben Girodias  
Tabitha Ludwig  
Will Shakespeare  
Denise Shearer  
Kevin Spangler  
AnneMarie Torresen  
David Winey

### Proofreaders

Sandra Smith  
Denali Drake  
Cynthia Price  
Brianna Jackson

### Office volunteers

Jessi Averill

### Story and photo submissions

submissions@grouncovernews.com

### Advertising

contact@grouncovernews.com

### Contact us

grouncovernews.org  
[facebook.com/grouncover](https://facebook.com/grouncover)  
[twitter.com/grouncovernews](https://twitter.com/grouncovernews)  
[instagram:@grouncovernews](https://instagram:@grouncovernews)  
Office: 423 S. 4th Ave., Ann Arbor  
P: 734-263-2098

## MEET YOUR VENDOR



James Manning, vendor No. 16

### In one sentence, who are you?

A starving artist seeking to legalize compassion.

### Where do you usually sell Groundcover News?

The Ann Arbor District Library when it is open. Otherwise I sell in the Main St. area.

### What is your favorite thing to do in Ann Arbor?

I enjoy hanging out with the few friends I have because Ann Arbor has a sense of camaraderie that can make hangout spots somewhat magical.

### What is something about you that someone on the street wouldn't know?

Regardless of how I'm treated, I strive to have manners and be respectful to others. I see it as combatting the various stigmas of the ultra poor and homeless and the fact that nothing nice is said about us.

### What words do you live by?

Do unto others as you would do unto yourself.

### What motivates you to work hard selling Groundcover News?

I do Groundcover because I would rather be one more good person in this sick world who tries to undo the damage done to the reputation of the destitute rather than help affirm the irrational prejudices people harbor towards the downtrodden.

### What are your hobbies?

Reading sci-fi and Japanese manga, drawing abstract tribal art and music, music, music!

## Back on track for the first time in years



TABITHA LUDWIG  
Groundcover vendor No. 360

though I'm not going to put too much pressure on myself. Every time I do that I seem to fall smackdown on my face. I know that when the time is perfect, I will be able to welcome my kids back and that will be a great feeling that I can't wait for. I love all my children very much but I know that they are in the best place for them right now.

This new home is going to be my very first place, besides living in a hotel, on the streets or with someone else, in the last six years. So I finally feel like my life is actually back on track for the very first time in years. I couldn't ask for it to be with a better man either. We have both been thrown a lot and have known each other for 15 years.

I want to thank all my readers for reading my articles because writing means a lot to me and is one of the only ways I know how to talk to people. I am a very shy person and am always scared of what people think about me. I learned that writing is a good way for me to talk about things that I need to work through. It also helps me in more ways than I could even explain. So thank you to all you lovely Groundcover readers!

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# My redemptive journey and the visionary that guided me



**DAVID WINEY**  
Groundcover contributor

(chanting)

It's morning. Still alive somewhere near the Ann Arbor Farmers Market the din of vendors and early morning shoppers' conversations pulls me from a groggy-headed sleep. They have already had their morning coffee, maybe breakfast, probably crawled from a warm bed. Only a slight hangover. Need a drink, that will fix it. Gathered up my belongings, my backpack, dusting grass and leaves from my person. Thinking to myself, "this really is a great sleeping place" thanking David in my mind and heart. He had just shown it to me a few days prior and knowing he was out of town for the next few days, it would be available.

I make my way from under this tree, nice long branches, "great covering if it's raining" he had told me. Breaking from the tree's cover, I chuckle to myself imagining someone seeing me suddenly appear. I've startled a few people, unintentionally crawling from some sleeping place to abruptly materialize from a place no person would think you could possibly be. I glance around as I stretch my sore muscles. Nope, a clean arrival to the world — far enough from the market and good ten feet to the sidewalk.

Again, thanking David for this place, knowing it was a huge trust he had put in me. You don't reveal your 'spots' to just anyone. Either from fear of them using it when you need it or possibly jeopardizing it for future use. I laugh inside at myself; this is someone's backyard; this is my life now. I was very leery of using this spot because it was on private property. I was sure to go there well after the town was asleep and adhered to David's rules: "Be quiet, respectful, don't bring any booze with you and definitely DO NOT bring anyone back here with you," adding in a smile that is both devious and playful, "unless...you know. And if you do, don't be making noise and drinking, unless...you know."

He had confided all this to me because I was fairly new at being

homeless in Ann Arbor. I knew Ann Arbor having attended the University of Michigan some 20 plus years ago, but at that time I was not homeless. You see it in a very different light. I'm sure the fifth

I had purchased when we met, the sharing of that and stories and the great conversation led him to watch out for me. He was a professional and this was his town. I believe this sense of ownership comes to anyone homeless in a place with the passage of time. You walk the streets at all hours of the day, watch the shops before they open and long after they close. You know the store's owners, the local police, you see them daily around town. You get to recognize anyone else who happens to be homeless, having to share similar resources and places of congregation. Yep, this was his town. Soon to be mine I guessed; I had no plans.

I found myself unconsciously walking on the edges of the farmer's market, knowing he would be back sometime this evening. I had met my goal for the day: find a place to sleep, but first, get a drink. I love a farmer's market. Who doesn't? Inside, holding a slight contempt for it simply because I had no money to buy anything, and even if I did, where would I put said items? I walked on the edge, observing, loving and admiring the human interaction — my heart lightening a bit.

**David met Kevin Spangler while he was selling Groundcover News and starting his company, Boober Tours.**

between us and both moved forward to pick it up. He reached it first and took the few steps to deposit it in a trash can. Did I know then this was a sealing moment in our relationship? I said,

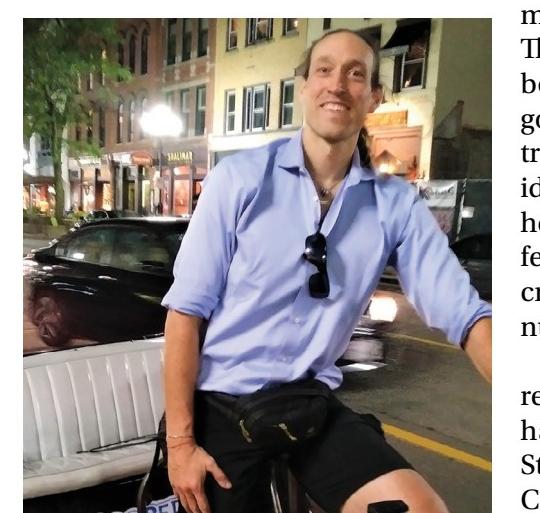
"How difficult is it to simply throw it away? I cannot comprehend just throwing trash on the ground." Realizing these were the first words between us I continued, "And don't use that excuse it gives someone a job," thinking to myself, "What a first impression! I'm in it, might as well keep going on my soapbox."

"I try to pick up at least three a day," I said. He paused before replying, "I try to do at least five." Now that we established a mutual enemy (trash), a comfortableness between us settled. He told me his story: recently out of jail, discovering he had a son on the way, his priorities changed. Everything changed. He was working multiple jobs and any gig that came his way. All to save money for a pedicab business he envisioned.

He asked me what I was doing, having learned I was homeless as he was just weeks before. I wasn't interested in giving up details — as I was still fresh in this state of reality. Sensing this he began to share the resources in Ann Arbor that helped him. While I took mental notes, he asked when I was going to make a change. Shit! Change? Did we discuss drugs and addiction? Oh yeah, our tales of using, and I had mentioned I was looking for my next drink. I told him that change wasn't in my cards that day and we both knew it. He gave me two dollars. Another common belief between us is if you give

from the pile under his arm, held it in front of me and said, "Groundcover, \$1 an issue. Supports the homeless in Ann Arbor."

I think I looked at him, looked at myself and may have laughed. I replied, "If I had a dollar, I'd give it," as we simultaneously noticed a piece of trash



with good intentions, it will come back to you. It's what my father believed. I watched him every Sunday putting money in that envelope during tithing.

Walking away having had a good conversation, and two dollars richer, the morning was off to a good start. I made more mental notes about him. The man is giving me a dollar for booze, knowing full well where it is going. A previous addict himself, who's trying to save money for his business idea and provide for his new son. And he still gives me a dollar? One of the few times I thought, "I may not be crazy after all.. or he's simply more nuts than me."

Some time has passed. I'm now a regular homeless person in Ann Arbor having braved two winters here. Standing on the deck of the Delonis Center — a great resource with two meals a day, connection to medical, resources on housing, a BEAUTIFUL saving place. I have no idea what I would have done if it did not exist. Had Delonis and the day shelters throughout Ann Arbor not existed during the winter months, the odds favor me going further down, maybe turning to crime to survive.

On the deck of Delonis having just finished the lunch meal, I looked up and saw Kevin driving by in one of his pedicabs. I chased after him, not knowing his new garage is right next to Delonis. We have spoken a few times in the past two years, always the same questions from him,

"Do you have your hundred reasons why to stop using?"

"Do you want a job?"  
"What are you doing?"  
"Ready to stop?"

And answers from me, "No," "Yes," "Nothing," "No."

I give him much credit for continuing to ask these questions. The conversation should end on his side. I've seen him end it. And I've seen him continue, not only with me but other possible Boober drivers, or homeless people or general hustlers. How much time do you give someone to change? And if they are still willing to help you do this, and if you are not ready, and they are still open for further conversation? This moment was similar to the many we have had since I first met him at the farmer's market two years prior.

Before I can answer as I have always done, he adds, "Come by tonight at 9 pm. If you're drinking, it's a no-go. If you're sober, I'll train you how to drive a cab. It's up to you."

I came by that night. He trained me. Driving the pedicab does take a certain

see JOURNEY next page ➔

# Boober tours is improving daily — gears, motors, coasters and more!



**KEVIN SPANGLER**  
Groundcover vendor No. 307

new lightbox signs. We are completing the top lightboxes for the Treehouse trolley and rebranding the trailer for Treehouse.

Boober has the best crew since our first year. We are averaging 8-10 cabs on the road daily. We are working on upgrading the fleet to have motors on every cab to support a 3.5 mile radius for our app. The goal with the app was to have Boober drivers make \$300 per night. We are now raising the goal to \$600. The vision is to have 30 cabs in the downtown area, eliminating some of the traffic of cars driving around in circles looking for a parking spot. The goal is to create a pedicab trend similar to that in Austin, Texas.

This month we are starting a marketing strategy that we have been planning for years: beverage coaster marketing advertising for Treehouse, the app and the booze cruise. We have 6000 coasters that we are going to give to the bars that support Boober tours. We put this strategy on hold because of last year's pandemic-induced vacation.

We are building three more trailers to keep up with the demand for our special marketing strategy. We are upgrading the roof of the Treehouse trolley because the supports are not strong enough for the

We are so excited that this year will be better than ever. Everything is falling in place!

➔ JOURNEY from previous page

amount of skill and concentration. More so than one would think. He then told me the codes to the garage as he was unsure of his schedule on when he would return. I noted to myself,

"Here he goes, trusting me with access to his new business." Why would anyone do this? Any business person knows that sort of faith in humanity is foolish.

I went out and worked. It was great. I was sociable. I told customers of his story, my story, of starting over. I made some money. Some healing was happening. I returned the cab to the garage. I hadn't yet figured out where I was to sleep. I was having such a good time working that my homeless reality had been stricken from my mind.

I knew the liquor store was still open. I knew then I could get something before it closed. Where to sleep tonight? My cycle continued.

More time passed. I had been through rehab, the courts, meetings, groups, etc. There are so many factors in a person's life that finding hope in a person — a program, a book, a gesture, anything to help move one forward instead of spinning — are all miracles. Having been exhausted for years I decided to try something new. I followed Boober cabs which eventually led me to the new garage. It was huge compared to the old one. There must have been ten-plus cabs in different states of working order. I stood looking over the shop.

He did it, he really did. Just like he said he would. I noticed Kevin working on the innards of a cab. This time I approached him with something. His first question which I knew was coming I would not let him ask, stating, "I have 67 so far," explaining how I wanted all of the 100 to be different reasons and many were too similar for my own tastes. This was one of the few times I caught him without something to say. Then we talked. Honest, everything was laid out.

The next few months were awesome. No matter what brings someone to homelessness, trust in human beings is difficult to reach again — on both ends — especially for an employer to a new employee. I would watch and listen to him present the same questions to others whose shoes I was in not

so long ago. Some became employees. Some didn't.

On Saturday mornings, we go get a coffee at Roos Roast with Kevin peddling and me as a passenger! Then we head to the farmers market. He'd buy greens to bring back to the shop to juice and make power drinks for his drivers! We shopped at Kiwanis' when it was downtown. He'd buy things for the business — mostly costumes — and probably a shirt or a hat for me. If you have not been in a Boober cab, it's worth the money, and it's free! The donation, or fee, is up to you.

I was familiar with Buddhism — some beautiful practices. I began to chant daily with him and some of the other drivers. I was changing old habits for new ones. Then I got a job managing a coffee shop! Kevin provided a stepping stone for the next stage of my life.

What hurt the most for me was witnessing people whom he gave that trust to — as he did me — turn around and steal from the shop or him. He understands that it is part of the addiction, and he always stays positive. But it still sucks. Even in his employment, I screwed up once or twice, but thankfully he gave me another chance.

When I learned the Boober app was launching, I had to write this. To write about him and what he gave to me, the community, people in recovery, to Groundcover. It was Kevin accomplishing another goal he set out in front of him. After years of nonsense, not contributing to the world, overcoming his addictions, realizing what is important to him, his son, the community, he was accomplishing another goal. Now that I was in a better place it was time for me to contribute. Time for me to accomplish some of those goals I had set in front of myself, even if only to show him I was worth the time he invested in me. This is one of my goals — accomplished. Thanks, Kevin! Thanks, Boober Tours!

He did it, he really did. Just like he said he would. I noticed Kevin working on the innards of a cab. This time I approached him with something. His first question which I knew was coming I would not let him ask, stating, "I have 67 so far," explaining how I wanted all of the 100 to be different reasons and many were too similar for my own tastes. This was one of the few times I caught him without something to say. Then we talked. Honest, everything was laid out.

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## You're Invited! Michigan Ability Partners with Louise & David Lutton Present:



A Celebration of Hope  
Friday, July 30, 2021

### A HYBRID VIRTUAL EVENT

Meal Pick Up: 4:30-6:30pm | Virtual Program: 7:15pm

Register At:  
[www.mapagency.org/silverlinings](http://www.mapagency.org/silverlinings)

Author's note: I asked Kevin to read this and give me his opinion. His reply, "David it's good. You still have to write it for you." So I wrote a different ending.  
<https://www.facebook.com/Go-Boober-ride-share-app-101982588260481/>  
21 cabs 3 trailers and a Go Boober app.

# Groundcover online reading project with Joe Woods

**ANNA GERSH**  
Groundcover board member

In March 2021, one of our board members had the very special opportunity to meet Ms. Marla Baldwin — an afterschool program coordinator at True North Services in Muskegon, Michigan. Ms. Baldwin teaches children, Kindergarten through third grade. She was very interested in the work being done at Groundcover News, and wanted to create a partnership with the paper. After several meetings with our new director, Lindsay Calka, we came up with a plan to give Groundcover vendors — the folks who sell the paper — an opportunity to help kids read and for kids to get to know our vendors! The result was the Groundcover News Online Reading Project.

Our first enthusiastic vendor participant was Mr. Joe Woods, recently profiled in the May 2021 issue of Groundcover. After a little instruction on best practices for reading to children, Joe was ready to go! We recorded a video which we sent to True North and Baldwin played it for her students. Joe's natural friendliness and warmth really came across in his reading. He was a big hit with the kids.

One youngster (GK) said, "He put a lot of action in the book!" Another, DR, said, "He was cool because of his hat and jacket!"

We were so excited about the project, we shared it with the folks at Ann Arbor District Library. We are very happy to report a developing partnership with our local library system to continue this project and we encourage interested vendors to be readers and teachers.

Joe read the book "BREAKING NEWS: Bear Alert" by David Bierdzicky. The following are some of the questions Ms. Baldwin asked following the reading and the children's responses.

## How do you know what season it is? When do bears sleep?

AG (1st grade): Bears sleep in the winter.

AP (Kindergarten): They walk around and find a place to lay down.



DW (1st): They sleep.  
EG (3rd): They hunt and then go to sleep.

GK (3rd): Bears hibernate. Hibernate is sleep. It started off in winter then it became spring.

DR (K): Sleep.

MM (1st): Sleep.

GK: The bears were asleep in a cave.

## If you were asleep all winter and woke up, what would you want to eat?

AP: I would want watermelon, eggs, and chocolate milk.

DW: Just a Coca-Cola.

AG: I would want to eat pizza, hot dogs, orange Fanta, and cupcakes.

MM: I would eat snow, mashed potatoes, eggs, bacon, sausages and that's all.

EG: Sunny side up eggs, bacon, grits, and orange juice, and some fish.

DR: Noodles and pancakes.

## If you saw the bears in the restaurant or on the street, what would you do?

AG: I would rescue the bears and I would feed the bears some carrots, snow and that's it.

DR: I would call 9-1-1.

EG: I would kill it and cook it, fry it and call the police.

DW: I would call the police.

MM: I would take them home, put them to sleep and give them hot cocoa and soup.

## How would you treat the bears if they came to where you live?

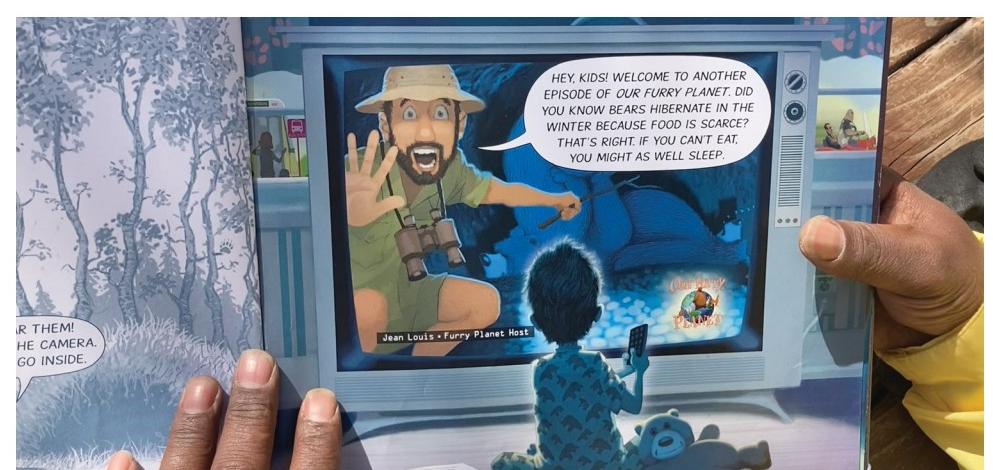
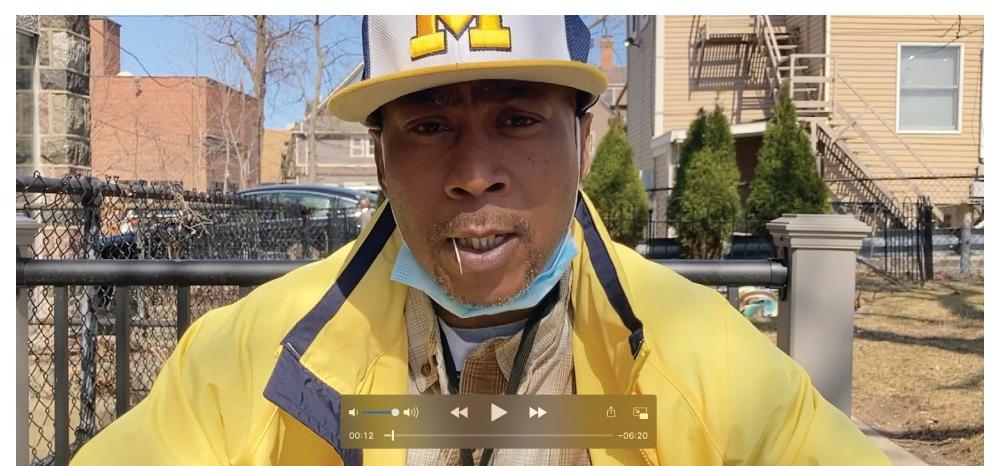
EG: I would treat him like he was my pet. I would feed them bear food.

AG: I would cuddle it up in my bed and then I would take him everywhere I go. Then I would take them outside and me and my sisters would play with them.

AP: I would treat it nice and give it some popsicles and put them in the bed and cover them with a blanket and put a pillow under it. I would play Candyland, Guess Who, and the matching game with it.

MM: I would treat them nicely.

DW: I would feed them all day hot



**Pandemic era reliance on virtual technology can create new opportunities. Groundcover vendor Joe Woods used technology to read to young students across the state of Michigan.**

dogs and all that.

DR: I would treat them nicely and go to the park with them and play on the truck. The part I liked was when the bears got on the cars.

GK: The first thing I would do is find shelter. You don't know if the bears are mean or not. The second thing I would do is call animal control. The third thing I would do is alert everybody else so they can take shelter. The fourth thing I would do is tell people to make sure they have enough food because you don't know if animal control is coming or not. The fifth thing is to make sure you have somewhere to sleep and a blanket and a pillow.

How did you like the way Mr. Joe read the story?

EG: I liked it.

AG: I liked it and I loved it. It's my favorite book.

MM: I liked it when he talked about the bears.

DR: He was cool because of his hat and jacket.

DW: He was ok because of how he read the story.

GK: I liked how he read it. He put a lot of action into the book!

Watch Joe Woods reading "Breaking News: Bear Alert" online at [groundcovernews.org](http://groundcovernews.org).



**Artwork from students in Mrs. Baldwin's afterschool class in Muskegon, Mich.**

# Don't take away my humanity! Remembering Anne Frank and George Floyd

"Once you label me, you negate me."  
— Soren Kierkegaard

On June 12, we celebrated Anne Frank's Birthday. She would have been 92 if she survived the holocaust. On May 25, America and the world reflected on the intentional murder of George Floyd on the streets of Minneapolis. At the center of these two tragic deaths are racial hatred, wickedness and abuse of power. The two narratives provide a social and political commentary on humanity.

"Once you negate me, you will take away my humanity" bystanders heard Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. say during his savage beating in August 1966 at Chicago's South-Side, where he and his fellow protesters marched against housing discrimination and exclusionary zoning. In his Letter from Birmingham Jail, Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied to a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly."

## Anne Frank's dream to become a writer in America



By age ten, Anne Frank knew she wanted to be a writer and perhaps a journalist. She was elated when she received a journal for her twelfth birthday from her aunt. The journal entries became what we now know as "Anne Frank's Diary" or "The Diary of a Little Girl" which was first published in the Dutch language in 1947. Today she is an internationally known writer. The diary has been translated into 70 languages with over 30 million copies sold.

Anne Frank's parents enrolled her in a Montessori school in Amsterdam when she was ten years old. A Danville Iowa school teacher, Ms. Birdie Mathews, wanted to initiate a letter-exchange program for her class. During her summer vacation across Europe, she connected with Anne Frank's



**WILL SHAKESPEARE**  
Groundcover vendor No. 258



teacher to start a pen-pal correspondence between their classrooms. Juanita was the student in Ms. Mathew's class who received Anne Frank's letter on which she signed her full name, Anneliese Marie Frank. Juanita's older sister corresponded with Anne's older sister, Margot. The exchanges are on display at the Simon Wiesenthal Holocaust Museum in Los Angeles.

Anne Frank's 92nd birthday was celebrated around the world, including Ann Arbor. Her birthday has special meaning to kids and adults of various ages, especially 92-year-old Irene Butter who was in Bergen-Belsen, the same concentration camp in Poland as Anne Frank. Many of our readers know that Irene Hasenberg Butter is a holocaust survivor and a retired professor at the University of Michigan School of Public Health, and the author of the biographical book, "Shores Beyond Shores: From Holocaust to Hope, My True Story." Irene Butter last saw 15-year-old Anne as a skinny, head-shaven teenager who had a blanket covering her body. People at the concentration camps were frequently starved, tortured and not allowed to wear clothes.

Anne Frank and her family dreamt of immigrating to America. Her father lived in New York City from 1909 to 1911. He did a summer internship at Macy's Department Store before settling down in Frankfurt, Germany. Otto Frank tried in 1938 and 1941 to secure an exit visa for himself and his family in order to travel to America or Cuba. He finally succeeded in getting approval for one exit visa on December 1, 1941. Because Nazi Germany and fascist Italy declared war on America ten days after the visa was approved, the documents were lost in transit. After Anne's sister, Margot received a letter to report to a Nazi labor camp in Holland, the family went into hiding in July 1942. They were in hiding for approximately two years at the "Secret Annex" before the Nazi Gestapo received a tip on their location and captured them on August 4, 1944.

## The humanity of George Floyd

May 25, 2021, was the one-year anniversary of George Floyd's brutal murder on the streets of Minneapolis. The world watched in horror as the ghastly video was released on the internet and local TV stations. Those videos were seen all over the world, and protests commenced all across the globe. The Black Lives Matter movement led the march to demand justice and accountability in America's capital, large cities, suburbs and rural counties.

Martin Luther King Jr. has said, "Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing now for others?'"

If you were there on the streets of Minneapolis around 8 p.m. on May 25, 2020 and saw George Floyd in distress and begging for his life, what would you have done? Would you have pushed the police officer's knee off George Floyd's neck? Would you call 911 immediately? Would you video-tape the incident as evidence for prosecution?

In an introductory psychology lecture taught by University Michigan professor and Golden Apple Award recipient, Dr. Shelly Schrier, the "bystander effect" or "bystander dilemma" is always discussed. Ms. Darnella Frazier was the 17-year old African-American teenage girl who captured George Floyd's death on her cell phone. It has been said that her video helped to shape Officer Chauvin's trial and eventual conviction. Frazier offered emotional testimonies with her videotape. It made a difference.

On June 11, 2021, NPR announced that Frazier won an Honorary Pulitzer Award. Our readers are advised to visit NPR to read Frazier's powerful statement. She noted, "Even though this was a traumatic life-changing experience for me, I'm proud of myself. If it weren't for my video, the world wouldn't have known that. My video didn't save George Floyd, but it put his murderer away and off the streets."

Finally, the tragedies of George Floyd and Anne Frank are preventable events. Rev./Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said, "The ultimate tragedy is not the oppression and cruelty of bad people, but the silence over that by the good people."

The 1948 UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights — Articles 1 through 30 — talks about all our rights as human beings. Article 1 says that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. Article 3 states that everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.

In our collective imagination, we wish that Anne Frank and George Floyd were still alive today. They come from two different worlds, but they share the same humanity as children of a "Higher God." They did not die in vain. Their horrific deaths woke up a traumatized world caught in moments of slumber, ignorant of the weighty calamity of hate and wickedness. Both tragedies have changed the world for the better.

The younger generations will continue mass protests and will try to keep American leaders and other world leaders fairly honest. We can always take solace in the "I Rise" poem of Writer and Poet Maya Angelou:

...You may shoot me with your words; You may cut me with your eye; You may kill me with your hatefulness; But like air, I'll rise...I rise!! I rise! I rise!!!

For additional reading on these subjects, please see Groundcover articles "Anne Frank and the Holocaust of World War II" (June 2018) and "George Floyd's Horrific Death and Police Brutality: Demands for Racial Equality and Justice" (July 2020).



# Happy 4th of July! What do we like most about America?

## WILL SHAKESPEARE

*"July 4th is an important day of remembrance, celebrating freedom. It's also a great time to remember and say thanks to the U.S. Armed Forces and their children and families for the sacrifices they've made to help protect that freedom."*

— safestartcenter.wordpress.com (July 4, 2012)

America is a multiracial and multi-ethnic society. Many Americans have a one-word or a two-word description of our nation. President Joe Biden says that America is "An Idea." His underlying thoughts were reported in the New York Post of October 22, 2020. Biden said on the campaign trail, "America was an idea." He continued "We hold these truths to be self evident. We've never lived up to it, but we've never walked away from it before. And I just think we have to be more honest. Let our kids know as we raise them, what actually did happen. Acknowledge our mistakes so we don't repeat them."

On the issue of teaching kids the facts of history, Biden said, "So I think it's important we teach history, not in a prescriptive way, from my perspective, but what actually the facts were without also acknowledging that there's 400 years of racism in the United States of America. That's what it is. And it's able to be fixed."

President Ronald Reagan described America as "ELDORADO," like a shining city on a hill. The Rev. Dr. Martin King saw his dreams deeply rooted in the "American Dream." Some sun-bathers, street revelers, and barbecue/picnic crowds describe America as the "Greatest Nation."

There should be no surprise to see millions of Americans celebrating the 4th of July Independence Day in 2021. There is

an additional incentive for extra joy, extra happiness, and extra celebration. We are still in the midst of a global covid-19 pandemic. For most of the year 2020, America was in an economic lockdown and shutdown. People were advised to stay safe at home, negotiate remote work from home, avoid large crowds, wear masks, maintain 6-feet physical distance, wash hands, and maximize remote meetings, learning, interactions, and job placements. But things have begun to get better. More people are getting covid-19 vaccination. In about 17 States the percentage of people who have received either the first or the second dose of the vaccines has reached 70 percent. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has advised fully vaccinated people to mingle again with other fully vaccinated members of their family and friends. They could also go to stores, parks, and plenty of outdoor events without their masks. Life in America is slowly getting to normalcy. This year, revelers, friends, and family members will celebrate the 4th of July with moments of ruminating joy and silent gratitude.

## Historical Context

At the time of the Declaration of Independence, penned by one of our founding fathers, Thomas Jefferson, there were millions of plantation slaves (bondsmen) and millions of acres of farmlands in America's Southern region. The institution of slavery, as Harvard Historian Herbert Aptheker noted, was a thriving business. In his book, "A Documentary History of the Negro in the United States," Aptheker unraveled the truth about slave resistance to bondage in the 18th and 19th century America. Some accomplished historians believe that the 4th of July celebration has not been inclusive.

Abolitionist Fredrick Douglass refused to celebrate the 4th of July while slavery was in existence. Journalist and abolitionist David Walker wrote a powerful four-part pamphlet titled, "An Appeal to All the Colored Men and Women in America and the World." He urged Americans to reject slavery, racism, prejudice and oppression. To Black men and Black women in bondage, David Walker's "Appeal" pamphlet was their equivalent of a declaration of freedom, an Independence Day. It may be an accident of history that on June 15, 2021, the U.S. Congress passed a bill making June 19th a National Holiday. President Joe Biden signed "The Juneteenth Bill" into law on Thursday, June 17, 1775. It continued into the next year, leading to formal Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. The Revolutionary War ended in 1777. A Commonwealth of Independent States was created, along with a unicameral continental congress. In 1787 America's constitution was drafted at Independence Hall, Philadelphia. General George Washington was elected President of the new Republic known as "The United States of America." The ten original Bill of Rights were finally ratified in 1791.

It is common knowledge that America used to be a colony of Britain. The 13 original colonies pledged their allegiance to King George in the 1770s. The colonies were dissatisfied with the governing arrangements, and tensions continued to mount. On December 16, 1773, America experienced what was described as the "Boston Tea Party." It was a response to the British Parliament's enactment of the "Tea Act" which imposed duties and taxes on tea coming from the American shores. The colonies reacted with a tea party of their own in Boston. It was said by historians that 342 crates of British tea were destroyed in Boston Harbor. The

see AMERICA next page ➤

## Groundcover Vendor Code

While Groundcover is a non-profit, and paper vendors are self-employed contractors, we still have expectations of how vendors should conduct themselves while selling and representing the paper.

The following is our **Vendor Code of Conduct**, which every vendor reads and signs before receiving a badge and papers. We request that if you discover a vendor violating any tenets of the Code, please contact us and provide as many details as possible. Our paper and our vendors should be positively impacting our County.

• Groundcover will be distributed

for a voluntary donation. I agree not to ask for more than the cover price or solicit donations by any other means.

• When selling Groundcover, I will always have the current monthly issue of Groundcover available for customer purchase.

• I agree not to sell additional goods or products when selling the paper or to panhandle, including panhandling with only one paper or selling past monthly issues.

• I will wear and display my badge when selling papers and refrain from wearing it or other Groundcover gear when engaged in other activities.

• I will only purchase the paper from Groundcover Staff and will not sell to or buy papers from other Groundcover vendors, especially

vendors who have been suspended or terminated.

- I agree to treat all customers, staff, and other vendors respectfully. I will not "hard sell," threaten, harass or pressure customers, staff, or other vendors verbally or physically.

- I agree to stay at least one block away from another vendor in downtown areas. I will also abide by the Vendor corner policy.

- I will not sell Groundcover under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

- I understand that I am not a legal employee of Groundcover but a contracted worker responsible for my own well-being and income.

- I understand that my badge is property of Groundcover and will not deface it. I will present my badge when purchasing the papers.

- I agree to stay off private property when selling Groundcover.

- I understand to refrain from

selling on public buses, federal property or stores unless there is permission from the owner.

- I agree to stay at least one block away from another vendor in downtown areas. I will also abide by the Vendor corner policy.

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## Sudoku ★★★★★ 4puz.com

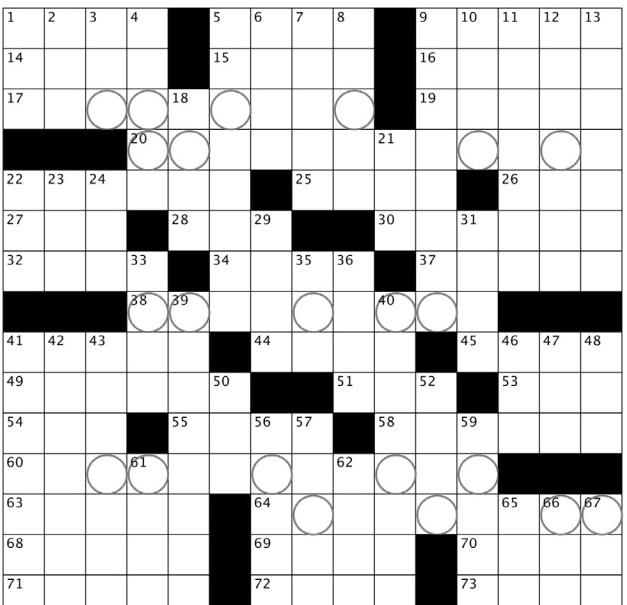


Fill in the squares so that each row, column, and 3-by-3 box contain the numbers 1 through 9.

Hidden Gems Peter A. Collins

- ACROSS  
1. Club in a Manilow hit  
5. Bomb, maybe  
9. Even if, informally  
14. Salard order  
15. Part of the eye  
16. Sophia of the screen  
17. Landscaping items  
19. North African capital  
20. Blue-flowered perennial  
22. Empty talk  
25. The dirt on Santa?  
26. Festival that ends Ramadan  
27. Bowl over  
28. "Now I \_\_\_ me down to sleep"  
30. Nirvana or Pearl Jam genre  
32. Doctor's orders?  
34. Cry  
37. Newman or Oldman, e.g.  
38. Collection area on the road  
41. Sing like Bing  
44. Bandmate of Ringo  
45. A deadly sin  
49. Tell, as a tale  
51. CEO's degree, maybe  
53. Go downhill fast?  
54. \$, in exchange-rate tables  
55. Some Dadaist pieces  
58. Parts of college applications  
60. Otherworldly  
63. Prized violin  
64. Play down  
68. American alternative  
69. Old draft classification  
70. Capital of Italy?  
71. German steel city  
72. NAACP part: Abbr.  
73. Boat bottom

- DOWN  
1. Hypodermic units  
2. "I'm impressed!"  
3. Milwaukee-based beer, for short  
4. Nigeria's capital  
5. Bar-hopping tour



40. Resident of a certain Canadian province  
41. Mission  
42. Job hunters' needs  
43. Buds from way back  
46. Dream Team jersey letters  
47. Setting of the sun?  
48. \_\_\_ the season ...  
50. Suffix for east or west  
52. "Make it snappy!"  
56. Trattoria offering  
57. Puts away  
59. Glistening  
61. Ending for kitchen or luncheon  
62. Sci-fi fliers  
65. Scheduled  
66. "We \_\_\_ not amused"  
67. "Too funny!" in a text

→ AMERICA from previous page

themselves, what people like most about their nation varies very much based on regions, communities and racial groups. While several people may disagree, we do think that one of the things people like most about America is the diversity. Multicultural diversity has been the engine of creativity, innovation, technology and sustainable economic prosperity in America. Cultural diversity has helped America to harness excellence in food culture, music culture, sports, art, entertainment, movies, TV, social media and literature.

Recently, a frequent reader of Groundcover News, activist Casey, said that what she likes most about America is peace-loving community members who see problems like injustice, poverty, hunger, and homelessness, and want to be a part of the solution. Another community activist, Lauren, agreed. She is one of the community leaders who founded Washtenaw Camp Outreach for the homeless.

During our random informal survey of what people like most about the United States, some people mentioned the quality of higher education such as The University of Michigan. Other mentioned the beauty of the U.S. physical landscape, The Bill of Rights, the American Flag, the National Anthem, patriotic fail, local non-profits step up and fill the gaps.

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## THINK ABOUT IT

## Where Oscar sleeps

Do you remember Oscar the Grouch from Sesame Street—the muppet that lived in a trash can outside the apartment from Maria and David? I was once told that Oscar represented the homeless population in the Sesame Street universe. The message I got from that was even though he lives in the trash and is always in "mal humor," he is part of the community and deserves compassion and respect from his neighbors.

In 2019, I was homeless in the real universe. Instead of being surrounded by friends in a peaceful barrio, I camped in the parks of Ann Arbor. In the parks, I found where Oscar sleeps. In the camps, there were remnants of past campers' garbage and abandoned property. Homeless people are already considered cast-offs, discards or wastrels. Having been homeless myself and placed in one of these camps by Michigan PATH (Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness), it felt like I was being told, "this is what you are in society, so this is where you stay—in the garbage pit."

The PATH program, run by Washtenaw County Community Mental Health, places people in public parks, state property such as the Michigan Department of Transportation or on private properties such as the University of Michigan or local churches. The Ann Arbor Police Department contributes to the disaster and confusion by conducting "sweeps" or mass evictions



**JIM CLARK**  
Groundcover vendor No. 139

from the very places PATH placed us in. These sweeps are initiated by the City of Ann Arbor, U of M, and MDOT.

MDOT tends to look the other way but has also initiated sweeps and evictions (such as Camp Take Notice in 2014). The sweeps are sudden and force the homeless population to leave equipment and personal belongings. It ends up looking like garbage since residents are forced to vacate their camp and are not allowed to take more than they can carry. The abandoned camps tell the stories of how people's lives, already in tragic shambles, are further humiliated.

Finally, there are the citizens who are environmentally conscious and use the parks to commune with nature. Ordinarily, they may be sympathetic to homelessness but are upset to see the trash left behind by sweeps. In some instances, people staying in parks are not accustomed to "camp culture" which prescribes to the "leave no trace" or "leave it cleaner than you

found it" mentality. Indeed, when I was struggling with homelessness, coming to these places, thinking all these thoughts made me feel less respect for all involved. I felt this way towards the authorities who conducted the sweeps, my peers who left the messes that could have been avoided, my community of neighbors who complain about the camps but do nothing to alleviate the problem, and myself for letting my life get so out of control that I must now sleep where Oscar slept.

The solution to this problem is to clean them up. If PATH, the police, the citizens (who also allow homelessness by supporting anti-housing legislation and anti-sentiment for the poverty-stricken), and peers started cleaning projects, I believe this would heal relations and become a platform for change. Recently I joined Washtenaw Camp Outreach, a volunteer organization that provides services to the homeless, and I am helping with a clean-up effort. This has been a rewarding experience that could help restore respect from county and city residents and self-respect for those who had to stay in the camps. If you are or were homeless or a volunteer, please join the effort to clean up the parks.

To get involved with Washtenaw Camp Outreach, connect with the organization on [Facebook](#) @ [washcampoutreach](#).

## ► HIRE from page 2

MLK, but then the conservative backlash of the 1980s cut the social safety nets in favor of military funding. The COVID-19 pandemic has only emphasized these horrible inequalities. And in this moment of crises, many of our community members work day and night to help those in need. I appreciate how Will in the December issue has uplifted these people and organizations, such as Groundcover, Food Gatherers, the Shelter Association of Washtenaw County and the general faith community, who have provided help to those in desperate need when the state failed them. It

is important to recognize those who make a positive difference and are part of the solutions, rather than just emphasize the problems.

Unfortunately, this man is undervalued here at Groundcover. I understand that we are a non-profit with a strapped budget relying on gracious donor support, but still, we need to be compensating him better for the wonderful, consistent contributions he gives every month. For his monthly contribution to Groundcover, he gets a cell phone plan and receives usually around 40 monthly issues. This corresponds to a value of papers that he could have bought himself for \$20. Given the

dedicated research, interviews, event attendance, and multiple efforts with our dedicated editing staff to perfect his craft, it is clear to all involved that the financial compensation he receives is pitiful.

The fact that Will continues to write these provocative articles month after month, supplying Groundcover with insightful content, is a testament to his generosity as well as his passion for sharing knowledge. But groceries in the contemporary world cannot be purchased with good will. He needs to be financially compensated adequately for his excellent contributions. This isn't to say that other writers shouldn't

Groundcover Principles  
as a Statement of  
Solidarity with  
Humanity

From its inception, **Groundcover News** has approached all its activities with belief in the following principles, as written on our website:

- All people have the right to dignity.
- Diversity has intrinsic value.
- Poverty is political — systemic change is necessary.
- Building community is essential to social change.
- Political effectiveness requires staying power.
- Solutions to poverty must involve people who are directly affected.
- Risks are necessary to create positive change.
- Meeting people where they are honors their skills and potential.
- We are committed to quality, professionalism, and accountability in everything we do.

We feel our attachment to these principles even more strongly today. If they resonate with you too, and you are looking for a way to make a difference during these life-changing times, please join us as a volunteer, supporter, friend or Board Member. To let us know, email: [contact@groundcovernews.com](mailto:contact@groundcovernews.com).

JULY 2021

JULY 2021

## COMMUNITY RESOURCES

## SHELTER

Robert J Delonis Center  
312 W Huron St.  
734-662-2829



Housing Access for  
Washtenaw County (HAWC)  
734-961-1999  
M-F: 8:30am-5pm

Safehouse  
4100 Clark Rd.  
24 hr crisis/help line: 734-995-5444  
M-F: 9am-5pm

## HOT MEALS

Robert J Delonis Center  
312 W Huron St.  
734-662-2829



Lunch: M-F 12-1pm, Sat & Sun 3-4pm  
Dinner: M-F 5:30-6:30pm

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church  
306 N Division St.  
734-663-0518  
Breakfast: 7:30-8:30am, 7 days a wk

## MENTAL HEALTH

Community Mental Health  
555 Towner St. (Ypsilanti)  
M-F: 8:30am-5pm  
CRISIS HOTLINE: 734-544-3050



## EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

Michigan Works  
304 Harriet St. (Ypsilanti)  
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Tues: 8am-7pm  
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1/4	\$159.95	\$215.95	5 x 6.25
1/2	\$299.95	\$399.95	10.25 x 6.5 or 5 x 13
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805 W Huron St.  
734-678-9818  
Sat breakfast 10am-2pm



Peace House Ypsi  
706 Davis (Ypsilanti)  
734-754-0648  
Sun brunch 10am-1pm

Journey of Faith New Beginnings  
Homeless Ministry  
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M-W by appointment  
Fri food distribution



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734-669-8265

Home of New Vision's  
Engagement Center  
103 Arnet St. (Ypsilanti)  
Open 24 hrs, 18+ years only  
734-879-1101



COVID FUND ACCESS  
OCED Barrier Buster  
Emergency Funding  
734-544-6748

# Cherry-almond oatmeal bake

**ELIZABETH BAUMAN**  
Groundcover contributor

**Ingredients:**

3 cups old fashioned rolled oats  
1 cup tart dried cherries  
3 eggs, slightly beaten  
5 1/2 cups milk (2% or whole milk)  
1 1/2 cups brown sugar (firmly packed)  
1/2 cup almond butter  
1 teaspoon vanilla  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
1 cup chocolate morsels  
1/4 cup slivered almonds, toasted

**Directions:**

Combine dry oats and cherries, and place in greased 13 x 9 x 2-inch baking dish. In a large bowl, whisk together eggs, milk, brown sugar, almond butter, vanilla and salt.



Evenly pour over oat mixture in baking dish. Cover and refrigerate overnight. Before baking, preheat oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit. Stir oatmeal mixture and then sprinkle with chocolate morsels and almonds. Bake uncovered for 55 minutes or until set. Let stand for a few minutes, and then serve warm.

## PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

8	3	5	7	1	4	9	2	6
2	9	4	6	8	5	3	7	1
1	6	7	3	9	2	4	5	8
7	5	9	1	2	6	8	4	3
3	1	2	8	4	7	5	6	9
4	8	6	5	3	9	7	1	2
9	2	8	4	7	1	6	3	5
6	7	3	2	5	8	1	9	4
5	4	1	9	6	3	2	8	7



## Bethlehem United Church of Christ

whoever you are, and wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here  
423 S. Fourth Avenue, Ann Arbor, MI 48104 734-665-6149  
Bethlehem-ucc.org [facebook.com/bethlehemuccA2](https://facebook.com/bethlehemuccA2)

Bethlehem Church is home of the Groundcover office



### JULY 2021 EVENTS AT BETHLEHEM

Bethlehem has cancelled all in-person activities due to COVID-19.  
Here are ways you can experience our 10 am worship service on Sundays:

Most Simple - Tune in to our live radio broadcast on WAAM 1600AM.  
You can also listen to WAAM on Tune In by following this link:  
<http://www.mainstreamnetwork.com/listen/player.asp?station=waam-am&listen=Listen+Live.>  
(Click the shiny "play" button on the lower left of the page, ignoring any advertisements.)  
• Facebook  
Beginning at 9:55 Sunday, you will find our Live Video at Bethlehem's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/bethlehemuccA2>

• Following the 10 am service on Sunday, the video will be posted to the Bethlehem UCC website: [www.bethlehem-ucc.org](http://www.bethlehem-ucc.org). We have begun posting the service to [Bethlehem's YouTube page](#), it will be available there at 10 am on Sundays.

Thank you all. We look forward to worshiping together.



Sunday Worship Times  
10:00 am Sanctuary  
streamed on Facebook

# We're Open!

Now Open Saturdays Only 9am-1pm



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## St. Francis invites you

to come and meet Christ Jesus  
who loves each one of us and who  
is really present here to save us.

"If God were your Father, you would love me,  
for I came from God  
and am here; I did not come on my own, but  
he sent me."  
+ Christ Jesus (John 8:42)

### Mass Times:

**Saturday Vigil 5 pm & 7 pm (español);**

**Sunday 8:30am, 10:30am, 12:30pm.**

**Daily Mon-Fri at 9:15am; Thurs Mass is  
followed by a Holy Hour.**

Spanish: [stfrancisa2.com/misa](http://stfrancisa2.com/misa)

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